UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/972
12 December 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LUXEMBOURG TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement issued on 5 December 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the peace agreements in Sierra Leone.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English/French]

Statement issued on 5 December 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the peace agreements in Sierra Leone

The European Union recalls its declarations of 28 May, 20 June and 10 July 1997 on the coup d'état that took place in Sierra Leone on 25 May. It would point out that it joined with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Organization of African Unity and the whole international community in unequivocally condemning the coup d'état, which overthrew a democratically elected Government, and in calling for the return of the legitimate Government to Freetown. It fully supports United Nations Security Council resolution 1132 (1997) introducing sanctions against the military junta in Freetown.

The European Union supports the efforts made by the States Members of ECOWAS, and in particular by the Committee of Five set up by ECOWAS, to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The European Union welcomes the peace agreement which was concluded on 23 October 1997 in Conakry by the military junta and the Committee of Five and accepted by President Kabbah. Among other things, the agreement provides for a return to constitutional order and the disarmament and demobilization of combatants within six months.

The European Union urges all parties to the conflict to honour their commitments and to seek a peaceful resolution of their continuing disputes over the interpretation of certain provisions of the peace agreements. It exhorts them to continue along the path that has been chosen, for which the European Union is ready to give them every support.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.